

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00615 280900Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /146 W

-----084616 290630Z /17

R 280100Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3221
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

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GENEVA FOR LOS DEL

CINCPAC HI FOR HICOM TERRPACIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS
SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY -
FISHERIES TEAM VISIT TO HONIARA

REF: STATE 105682

1. SUMMARY: FISHERIES TEAM MET WITH GSI OFFICIALS TO
DISCUSS FORMATION OF SPRFA. GSI VERY RECEPTIVE TO US
PRESENTATION AND OBVIOUSLY HAVE AS PRIMARY GOAL MOVING
NEGOTIATIONS TO RAPID CONCLUSION AND MAINTAINING DECISION
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TO HOUSE AGENCY IN HONIARA. END SUMMARY.

2. FISHERIES TEAM ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY OFFICER MAYBARDUK
MET 24 APRIL WITH GSI OFFICIALS FROM CHIEF MINISTERS OFFICE,
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ATTORNEY'S CHAMBER, AND NATURAL RESOURCES.
GSI TEAM HEADED BY FRANCIS BUGOTU, PERMANENT SECRETARY,
CHIEF MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT AND GSI DELEGATE TO RECENT

SPEC COMMITTEE MEETING. GSI OFFICIALS WELCOMED US PRESENTATION AND IN PARTICULAR EXPLANATION OF US DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AND ITS RELATION TO ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED IN SPRFA NEGOTIATIONS. THEY SEEMED UNAWARE THAT THROUGH MEMBERSHIP IN PROPERLY CONSTITUTED SPRFA, INTERNATIONALLY APPROVED REGULATIONS WOULD OVERCOME PROVISIONS OF US LAW RELATING TO SANCTIONS OR THAT IN ABSENCE OF SPRFA US WAS UNABLE TO REGULATE FISHING BY ITS OWN FLAG VESSELS IN THE REGION.

3. TEAM BRIEFED GSI ON RECENT MOVES TO OBTAIN MONIES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN COOPERATION WITH SPRFA. REACTION TO THIS PORTION OF BRIEFING WAS MARKED, AND IT SEEMS APPARENT THAT GSI IS CONCERNED ABOUT VIABILITY OF AGENCY. COMMENT: GSI NO DOUBT SEES ESTABLISHMENT OF SPRFA HEADQUARTERS IN HONIARA AS A DEVELOPMENTAL GOAL IN AND OF ITSELF, QUITE ASIDE FROM ANY FISHERIES OBJECTIVES. THEY WERE RECEPTIVE TO US ARGUMENTS ON SPECIFIC FISHERIES ISSUES, AND TEAM GAINED IMPRESSION THAT SO LONG AS THEIR FISHERIES OBJECTIVES ARE NOT SUBSTANTIALLY DAMAGED, THEY WILL SEEK ACCOMMODATIONS IN ORDER TO ALLOW US PARTICIPATION.

4. GSI OFFICIALS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN OVER INTEREST OF US TUNA FISHERMEN IN FISHING SOPAC AREA. THEY DESIRE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHERY BUT STATED THAT RESOURCE MUST NOT BE OVERFISHED BEFORE ACTION IS TAKEN TO ESTABLISH CONSERVATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEASURES. IN THIS REGARD, THEY UNDERSTAND NEED FOR REGION-WIDE REGULATIONS TO PREVENT POCKETS OF UNREGULATED FISHING.

5. GSI STATED THAT REPRESENTATION FOR DEPENDENT TERRITORIES COULD BE "STICKING POINT" IN NEGOTIATIONS. THEY INDICATED GREAT CONCERN OVER THE US AND FRENCH POSITIONS ON THIS ISSUE. GSI APPARENTLY UNDER IMPRESSION US WAS ACTIVELY SEEKING SEPARATE VOTE FOR EACH OF ITS DEPENDENCIES. US TEAM GAVE ITS UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUE, AND BRIEFED GSI ON OUTCOME OF HONOLULU MEETING AS WELL IN VERY GENERAL TERMS ON US/MICRONESIA AGREED PRINCIPLES. GSI UNDERSTANDS DIFFICULTY WITH ISSUE, AND DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY READY SOLUTION.

6. COMMENT: WHILE VISIT WAS MAINLY AN EDUCATIONAL EFFORT ON PART OF US TEAM, BELIEVE VISIT WAS VERY WORTHWHILE AND SUCCESSFUL. GSI SHOULD NOW BE MUCH BETTER VERSED IN ALL ASPECTS OF US POSITION, AND UNDERSTAND US COMMITMENT TO WORK TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF SPRFA. IN VIEW GREAT INTEREST BEING SHOWN BY GSI AND OTHERS IN POSSIBILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, THIS COULD BE TELLING POINT IN NEGOTIATIONS. INFORMATION FORWARDED REFTEL WILL BE VERY USEFUL FOR FOLLOW

UP TALKS BY EMBASSY AND TEAM INTENDS TO USE IN FUTURE
CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
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